

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 54 without my signature.

Without comprehensive health care reform that fully addresses affordability, cost containment and shared responsibility, I cannot support health plan mandates that place additional costs on a system that makes coverage less affordable and accessible for Californians.

Under current law, acupuncture coverage is required to be offered by health plans. Approximately 86% of insured Californians already have access to such coverage because they have chosen to purchase such coverage.

These mandates, when taken collectively or individually, increase and shift health care costs to consumers and purchasers.

I continue to call on the Legislature to work with me in the remaining days of this legislative session to enact reforms that embrace prevention strategies, contain costs, and protect consumers.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger